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May 1, 2006
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NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON AND CITYFOLK TO LAUNCH RESIDENCY PROGRAM, RWANDAN SINGER AND GENOCIDE SURVIVOR NAMED FIRST VISITING ARTIST

DAYTON, Ohio – The University of Dayton has joined forces with Cityfolk to create a new World Rhythms Artist Residency Program.

The residency program, co-sponsored by UD's ArtStreet, Center for International Programs and Arts Series, will bring an artist or group performing in the Cityfolk annual World Rhythms Series to the Dayton community for an extended period of time to work with UD students and Dayton community members. Through workshops, site visits, discussions, lectures, demonstrations and other activities, visiting artists designated as World Rhythms Fellows will promote the arts as a vehicle for developing culture and community that extends beyond traditional social and academic borders.

Rwandan singer and peace messenger Jean Paul Samputu has been named the first World Rhythms Fellow. Samputu, who won the prestigious Kora Award (the "African Grammy") in 2003, is a survivor of the genocide in Rwanda. He travels the world performing traditional African singing, dancing, and drumming, and promoting peace and reconciliation among people. Samputu has performed at the 2005 Freedom Awards at the National Civil Rights Museum, the World Culture Open at Lincoln Center in New York, and for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for World Refugees Day. He has also participated in "Ten Years Remembering," an event commemorating the 10th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda.

Samputu and his group Ingeli will perform on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2007, at Boll Theatre on the University of Dayton's campus. As part of the new residency program, the group will stay in Dayton Jan. 29 - Feb. 2 to take part in UD's annual Human Rights Week activities, as well as conduct activities with Dayton community organizations and schools.

Cityfolk, Dayton's premiere non-profit presenter of traditional arts, and the University of Dayton's Arts Series have been longtime partners in presenting the World Rhythms Series, which hosts some of the international music scene's most renowned artists each year.

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For media interviews, contact **Susan Byrnes**, director of ArtStreet, at (937) 229-5101.

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